



D15/14713

20 May 2015

Carolyn McNally - Secretary
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms McNally

BLAYNEY EXPORT MEATS SMALLSTOCK ABBATOIRS 137 NEWBRIDGE ROAD BLAYNEY

Orange City Council is writing to offer in principle support for the establishment of the Blayney Export Meats Smallstock Abattoirs at 137 Newbridge Road Blayney.

The proposal is located in Blayney Shire, which shares a boundary with Orange City Council. The town of Blayney and the city of Orange also share economic bonds.

Council notes that the Department of Planning and Environment has detailed a thorough process for the consideration of this project. This robust appraisal together with your Environmental Assessment Requirements is welcome.

It is noted that the department's assessment appropriately goes well beyond socio/economic benefits.

However, given recent employment challenges in this region Orange City Council has a particular focus on and interest in jobs creation.

The employment challenges in this region include Downer EDI in Bathurst in 2014 displacing 100 workers, Cadia Valley Operations going through an employment adjustment period and, most significantly for Orange, the announced closure of the Electrolux whitegoods factory by June next with the loss of more than 500 jobs.

The impact of these job losses extends beyond the host local government areas of these employers. It is notable that the projected employment benefits connected to the Blayney Export Meats Smallstock Abattoir proposal extend beyond the boundaries of the Blayney local government area.

The investment proposed here could play a significant role in bridging the jobs gap in the region.

BLAYNEY EXPORT MEATS SMALLSTOCK ABBATOIRS CONT...

Of particular interest was the following taken from the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment:

By the third year, it is anticipated that the abattoir will be in full operation. Using the estimates for the third year, the ongoing total annual economic contribution to the LGA and local region from abattoir operations is estimated as follows:

- *Output/income \$172 million*
- *Value added \$50 million*
- *391 full time equivalent jobs*

If the issues raised in your Environmental Assessment Requirements can be properly addressed or managed then the Blayney Export Meats Smallstock Abattoir would be a welcome addition to the employment pool in this region.

Yours faithfully



John Davis OAM
MAYOR OF ORANGE